

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the patentability of the claims of this application is solicited in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

The examiner's attention is specifically directed to the material added to claims 87 and 103 that conform substantially exactly to the comments made by the examiner in the second paragraph of page 3 of the outstanding office action. With these amendments, it is believed that all objections raised by the examiner have been overcome and all of the instant claims should be allowed.

It is pointed out that the claims now contain the new feature of displaying, on a user's terminal, different levels (i.e., first and second levels) of detail for EPG information for a currently tuned station (i.e., a currently tuned channel service) versus a channel service that is not currently tuned. This feature clearly differentiates the invention being claimed in the instant application as compared with the state of the prior art. These amendments do not introduce any prohibited new matter and therefore should be entered.

Therefore, as will clearly be understood from the previous description of this invention and the claims as they now stand, there is a substantial patentable difference between the present invention and the material disclosed in references cited and relied upon by the examiner, i.e.: Terakado et al. (U.S. Patent 6,311,329), Yuen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,447,705), and Eyer (U.S. Patent 5,801,753).

The Terakado et al. patent discloses an information providing apparatus and method, in which a hierarchical structure of data A1 to A3, including data of an electronic program guide, are used, as shown in Figs. 4A to 4C. The A1 data are composed of, for example, a broadcasting date, a start time, and an end time, any of which may possibly be changed. The A2 data are composed of, for example, a program name, that will not be changed. The A3 data are composed of still pictures, moving pictures, voice and other data. Because this may become a

comparatively large volume of data, the hierarchical structure of data A1 to A3 is used to make it easier to cope with changes in contents of the program guide data.

The Yuen et al. reference discloses an EPG in Figs. 18 and 20-24 that displays program guide data having different levels of detail related to the same program.

The Eyer patent discloses different transport streams for carrying program guide information, a trickle stream and a demand stream in col. 4, lines 36 – 54.

However, even when considering the disclosure of the Terakado et al. reference together with the disclosure of the Yuen et al. reference and even with the addition of the disclosure of the Eyer reference, there is no teaching of the configuration of:

electronic program information distributing means (12; 13; 22; 34) for distributing, on the basis of the distributing information, appropriate program information to diverse transport streams in which:

(i): the first type of electronic program information (individual) related to each channel service (e.g., ST100) is distributed to a first transport stream (TS1) assigned to the channel service (ST100), and

(ii): the second type of electronic program information (general) related to each channel service (e.g. ST100) is distributed to the remaining one or more transport streams (TS2, TS3, ...) that is/are different from the first transport stream (TS1).

One example is as follows: if the user tunes to a certain channel service (for example Washington DC TV) that is being transmitted through a first transport stream, the user can see, at the same time, on his TV, both the first type of electronic program information (individual), related to the tuned channel service (e.g. Washington DC TV) and the second type of electronic program information (general), related to other channel services (New York TV, California TV, Florida TV, Chicago TV, etc.). In that situation, the EPG information directed to Washington DC TV is displayed with a greater degree of detail (that is the data are more detailed), while the EPG information concerning New York TV, California TV, Florida TV, Chicago TV, etc. is

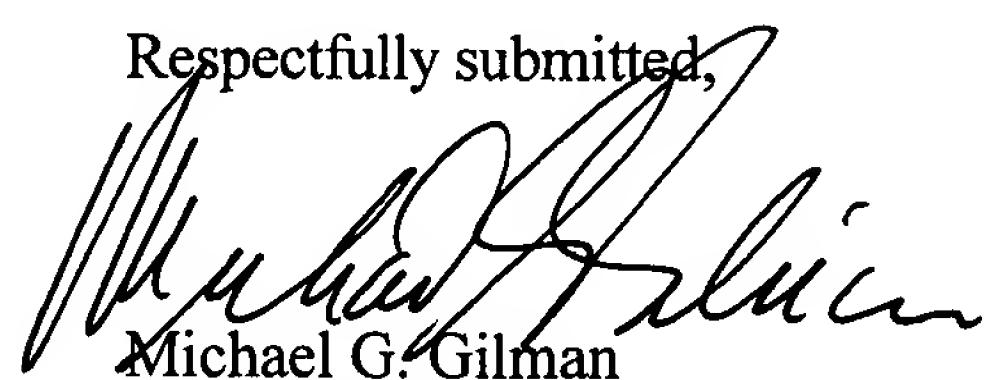
displayed with a lesser degree of detail (i.e., the data are simpler, less detailed). Therefore, the user is able to obtain the detailed EPG information about Washington DC TV to which the user showed an interest and still obtain simple, more general EPG information about the remaining TV broadcast stations which have not been singled out by the user. The user is therefore still able to know general EPG information about the remaining stations while knowing more detailed information about the chosen station. This enables the viewer to see what is happening on other stations and to therefore enables him to knowledgeably select and change channels if the programs on the other channels seem more interesting.

Further, if the user changes his channel to tune into New York TV the detailed EPG information (individual) about New York TV will be displayed together with more general EPG information (general) about other stations such as (Washington DC TV, California TV, Florida TV, Chicago TV, etc.).

The Yuen patent merely discloses different levels of detail related to the same program and Eyen merely discloses different transport streams. Accordingly, even combining the disclosures of Yuen and Eyen with the disclosure of the Terakado et al. patent will not produce a combination of detailed EPG information (the first type of electronic program information) that is directed to the channel service (broadcast station) to which the user has tuned, and more general EPG information (the second type of electronic program information) related to the remaining service channels (broadcast stations) to which the viewer has not specifically tuned. These are significant differences that warrant patenting.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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